

YAHOO! MAIL

re: New considerations for HB 4518 and 4594-4596

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:17 PM

From: "jdankovich@yahoo.com" <jdankovich@yahoo.com>

To: undisclosed-recipients

Dear Representative:

Thanks for your concern over these Juvenile Life without parole bills.

Several things that I hope you will consider:

1). Many victim's families SUPPORT these bills, including Dave Daverman, Tammi Smith, our family (both Maternal Aunts and Uncles and Grandparents in our case). In my situation, the families all visit and write Chris Dankovich, #595904, so that he is visited the maximum permitted number of visits EACH month. There are many, many other families who support these bills; this may not be the impression given from the so- called Victim's Rights group from Illinois which appears to believe they represent the majority of families. I believe they only represent the bitter families for which the wounds of losing a loved one override their sense of understanding that nothing really can ever heal loss, and that giving a child a chance at parole is the only human thing to do.

2). We have a new National policy arising. The US Supreme Court will hear arguments on this issue.. the JLWOP.. the essence of which is contained in our bills. And the US just joined the Human Rights Commission of the UN, not the case under the former Federal administration. As you are aware, the former administration did NOT back Children's Rights Agreements which made the US the only country with a government not to do so (Somalia hasn't a government stable enough to ratify the agreement). The US House has introduced bills to prohibit JLWOP under Reps Conyers and Scott. These bills have the children 18 and under who are sentenced as adults eligible for parole reviews AND parole review for any minor still serving sentences after 15 years, as the Michigan Bills had before the H1 amendments. These bills on the National Level are expected by many experts to have strong support and will likely pass given the present makeup of the Federal House and Senate, and a President who is interested in Human Rights and Children.

3). There is NO other country in the world which subjects its children to the NO- hope . life without parole programs. NOBODY else! In Michigan, as you are aware, we have over 300 children serving this way... not to mention the 1,000 plus children serving over 15 years without a chance of parole review.

4). At the risk of being obvious.. the MDOC supports these bills. And it will save money at IMMEDIATELY in Corrections Budget. It costs \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year for life at current rates for the over 300 prisoners housed. With 70 as the average life expectancy, this is 60x 30,000 per prisoner who could be released! At today's rates, over \$1.8 MILLION per released inmate, and we all know we won't be able to stay at current costs. And if children over 15 year sentences were reviewed the potential number of released inmates would be far greater, resulting in savings that could run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

These bills don't require parole, only give review. Think of it: how would YOU react if you knew you could NEVER be released? Think this might give MDOC management headaches??

Please consider all this and let me know. We need to get rid of the H1 amendments and pass these bills. Let's be proactive and pass the bills in Michigan BEFORE we are stuck reacting to Federal rulings!!

Thanks,

Dr Jim Dankovich

**JLWOP and 15 year H1 amendments**

Monday, May 25, 2009 8:01 PM

From: "James Dankovich" <jdankochiro@yahoo.com>

To: "James Dankovich" <jdankochiro@yahoo.com>

Dear Representative:

I have a great concern with the language of the H1 amendments to HB 4518, 4594 *and* 4596.

Lowering the age to 17 and under is one issue; for me, the greater is that of Lifers getting parole review after 15 years instead of 10 as was written and, I believe, passed in the last Legislature at the end of 2008. Whereas I agree that the children who receive life without parole should get a parole review after 15 years.. or, better after 10 years (as the strong bipartisan support of the previous bills indicated in the House last session).

I also believe that the children who got the so called Numbers sentences.. like my son and many, many others... *should* be reviewed after 10... or at least 15 years. Where is it right that one group receives review and those who committed lesser crimes or received lesser sentences should NOT be reviewed after the same amount of time?

Remember, a 15 year would be 30 at review.. certainly long enough for you, me or anyone to mature and change if they are going to. Please restore the original language to allow other kids to be looked at. Again, how did you change from age 15 to age 30???